

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 10 and 22 - 36, 59 and 69, without prejudice to their reintroduction in a continuation application, and amend claims 38, 45, 48, 56, 60, 63, 64, 70, 78 and 81 as follows:

1- 36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a base portion having a suction opening;

an upright housing hingedly connected to said base portion, said upright housing including an opening;

a dirt cup removably mounted in said opening of said upright housing;

a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing, wherein said suction source is located beneath the dirt cup;

a filter located in and removable with said dirt cup, wherein an associated airstream flows from said suction opening to an inlet of said dirt cup, through said filter, to an outlet of said dirt cup, through said suction source and away from the vacuum cleaner; and

wherein said dirt cup has an open upper end, which serves as said outlet of said dirt cup, said filter being selectively removable from said dirt cup through said open upper end thereof.

38. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 further comprising a particle collection chamber defined in said dirt cup for collecting

particles separated from the associated airstream flowing from said a dirt cup entrance through said a dirt cup exit.

39. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said dirt cup is at least partially transparent.

40. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said filter comprises a pleated planar filter medium.

41. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said filter is so positioned in said dirt cup as to filter the associated airstream just before it flows through said outlet of said dirt cup.

42. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 further comprising a first conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said suction opening and said inlet of said dirt cup.

43. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 42 further comprising a second conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said outlet of said dirt cup and said suction source.

44. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 further comprising a final filter located downstream from said suction source.

45. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 44 wherein at least one of said filter ~~member~~ and said final filter comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.

46. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said dirt cup has an axis and said filter has an axis which is parallel to said dirt cup axis.

47. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 46 wherein said filter axis is coaxial with said dirt cup axis.

48. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 further comprising a brushroll rotatably mounted to said ~~nozzle~~ base portion.

49. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 48 wherein said upright housing comprises a handle.

50. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a handle.

51. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 further comprising a latch mechanism for selectively securing said dirt cup to said upright housing.

52. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said filter is approximately cylindrical in shape.

53. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 further comprising a support member on which said filter is mounted.

54. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 53 wherein said support member has a longitudinal axis which is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said dirt cup.

55. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 37 wherein said dirt cup has a closed lower end.

56. (Currently Amended) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:  
a base portion including a nozzle opening and a brush assembly;  
an upright housing section hingedly connected to said base portion, said upright housing section including a socket;  
a dirt cup selectively mounted in said socket, said dirt cup including an open upper end and a closed lower end;  
a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing;  
a filter located in said dirt cup, wherein said filter is removable from said upright housing with said dirt cup, said filter being removable from said dirt cup through said open upper end of said dirt cup;  
a particle collection chamber located in said dirt cup and formed at least partially by a closed lower end thereof, for collecting particles separated from an associated airstream flowing out of said dirt cup through said filter; and,

wherein said suction source is located beneath said dirt cup.

57. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 56 wherein said dirt cup is at least partially transparent.

58. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 56 wherein said filter comprises a pleated planar filter medium.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 56 further comprising a first conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said ~~suction~~ nozzle opening and said dirt cup.

61. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 60 further comprising a second conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said dirt cup and said suction source.

62. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 56 further comprising a final filter located downstream from said suction source.

63. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 62 wherein at least one of said filter ~~member~~ and said final filter comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~The vacuum cleaner of claim 56~~ An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a base portion including a nozzle opening and a brush assembly;

an upright housing section hingedly connected to said base portion, said upright housing section including a socket;

a dirt cup selectively mounted in said socket, said dirt cup including an open upper end and a closed lower end;

a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing;

a filter located in said dirt cup, wherein said filter is removable from said upright housing with said dirt cup, said filter being removable from said dirt cup through said open upper end of said dirt cup;

a particle collection chamber located in said dirt cup and formed at least partially by a closed lower end thereof, for collecting particles separated from an associated airstream flowing out of said dirt cup through said filter wherein said dirt cup has an axis and said filter has an axis which is parallel to said dirt cup axis.

65. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 64 wherein said filter axis is coaxial with said dirt cup axis.

66. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim ~~56~~ 64 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a handle.

67. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim ~~56~~ 64 further comprising a latch mechanism for selectively securing said dirt cup to said upright housing.

68. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim ~~56~~ 70 wherein said filter is approximately cylindrical in shape.

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) ~~The vacuum cleaner of claim 69~~ An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:

a base portion including a nozzle opening and a brush assembly;

an upright housing section hingedly connected to said base portion, said upright housing section including a socket;

a dirt cup selectively mounted in said socket, said dirt cup including an open upper end and a closed lower end;

a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing;

a filter located in said dirt cup, wherein said filter is removable from said upright housing with said dirt cup, said filter being removable from said dirt cup through said open upper end of said dirt cup;

a particle collection chamber located in said dirt cup and formed at least partially by a closed lower end thereof, for collecting particles separated from an associated airstream flowing out of said dirt cup through said filter;

further comprising a support member on which said filter is mounted, wherein said support member has a longitudinal axis which is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said dirt cup.

71. (Previously Presented) An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:  
a base portion having a suction opening;  
an upright housing hingedly connected to said base portion;  
a suction source mounted in one of said base portion and said upright housing;  
a dirt cup removably mounted to said upright housing, said dirt cup comprising an open upper end and a closed lower end;  
a first dirt separator located at least partially in said dirt cup; and,  
a second dirt separator located at least partially in said dirt cup, wherein said second dirt separator comprises a filter for filtering an associated air stream passing through said dirt cup from an entrance of said dirt cup to an exit of said dirt cup, said filter being removable with said dirt cup when said dirt cup is removed from said upright housing.

72. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 wherein said first dirt separator comprises a cyclonic airflow chamber.

73. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 wherein said filter comprises a pleated planar filter medium.



74. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 wherein said suction source is located beneath said dirt cup.

75. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 further comprising a first conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said suction opening and said dirt cup.

76. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 75 further comprising a second conduit for facilitating fluid communication between said dirt cup and said suction source.

77. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 further comprising a final filter located downstream from said suction source.

78. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 76 wherein at least one of said filter member and said final filter comprises a high efficiency particulate arrest (HEPA) filter medium.

79. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 wherein said dirt cup has an axis and said filter has an axis which is parallel to said dirt cup axis.

80. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 79 wherein said filter axis is coaxial with said dirt cup axis.

81. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 further comprising a brushroll rotatably mounted to said ~~nozzle~~ base portion.

82. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 81 wherein said suction source is located beneath said dirt cup.

83. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 wherein said dirt cup further comprises a handle.

84. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 further comprising a latch mechanism for selectively securing said dirt cup to said upright housing.

85. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 further comprising a support member on which said filter is mounted.

86. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 85 wherein said support member has a longitudinal axis which is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said dirt cup.

87. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner of claim 71 wherein said dirt cup is at least partially transparent.